

86. (Twice Amended) A process for making biaxially stretched, heat shrinkable film comprising:

extruding a melt plastified primary tube comprising at least one layer consisting essentially of 25 to 85 weight percent of a first polymer having a melting point of from 55 to 95°C comprising at least one copolymer of ethylene and octene-1;

5 to 35 weight percent of a second polymer having a melting point of from 115 to 128°C comprising at least one copolymer of ethylene and at least one α -olefin; and

D2 10 to 50 weight percent of a third polymer having a melting point of from 60 to 110°C comprising at least one copolymer of ethylene and a vinyl ester or an alkyl acrylate; wherein said first and second polymers have a combined weight percentage of at least 50 weight percent, said weight percentage being based upon the total weight of said first, second and third polymers;

cooling said primary tube;

reheating said cooled tube to a draw point temperature of from 65 to 88°C;

biaxially stretching said tube to a circumference of at least $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the circumference of said primary tube, and cooling said biaxially stretched tube to form a biaxially stretched, heat shrinkable film.

Please add the following claims:

112. (New) A polymer blend of at least three copolymers comprising:

25 to 85 weight percent of a first polymer having a melting point of from 55 to 95°C comprising at least one copolymer of ethylene and octene-1;

D3 Cont 5 to 35 weight percent of a second polymer having a melting point of from 115 to 128°C comprising at least one copolymer of ethylene and at least one α -olefin; and

10 to 50 weight percent of a third polymer having a melting point of from 60 to 110°C comprising at least one copolymer of ethylene and a vinyl ester or an alkyl acrylate; wherein said first and second polymers have a combined weight percentage of at least 50 weight percent, said weight percentage being based upon the total weight of said first, second and third polymers, wherein at least one of said first, second and third polymers comprises an interpolymer.

113. (New) A blend, as defined in Claim 112, wherein an interpolymer comprises said first and second polymers.

114. (New) A flexible film comprising at least one layer comprising the blend of Claim 112.

115. (New) A flexible film comprising:

a heat sealing surface layer comprising a polymer selected from the group consisting of:

(a) at least 50% by weight of a copolymer of propene and at least one α -olefin selected from the group consisting of ethylene, butene-1, methylpentene-1, hexene-1, octene-1 and mixtures thereof having a propene content of at least 60 wt. %, and

(b) at least 50% by weight of a copolymer of ethylene and at least one α -olefin selected from the group consisting of propylene, butene-1, methylpentene-1, hexene-1, octene-1, and mixtures thereof having a melting point of at least 105°C and a density of at least 0.900 g/cm³;

an intermediate layer;

a core layer;

an outer protective surface layer;

wherein at least one of said intermediate and said outer protective layers comprise a polymer blend of at least three copolymers comprising:

25 to 85 weight percent of a first polymer having a melting point of from 55 to 95°C comprising at least one copolymer of ethylene and octene-1;

5 to 35 weight percent of a second polymer having a melting point of from 115 to 128°C comprising at least one copolymer of ethylene and at least one α -olefin; and

10 to 50 weight percent of a third polymer having a melting point of from 60 to 110°C comprising at least one unmodified or anhydride-modified copolymer of ethylene and a vinyl ester or an alkyl acrylate; wherein said first and second polymers have a combined weight percentage of at least 50 weight percent, said weight percentage being based upon the total weight of said first, second and third polymers, and said core layer is disposed between said intermediate and said outer protective layers.

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116. (New) A process for making biaxially stretched, heat shrinkable film comprising:
extruding a melt plastified primary tube comprising 25 to 85 weight percent of a first polymer having a melting point of from 55 to 95°C comprising at least one copolymer of ethylene and octene-1;

5 to 35 weight percent of a second polymer having a melting point of from 115 to 128°C comprising at least one copolymer of ethylene and at least one α -olefin; and

10 to 50 weight percent of a third polymer having a melting point of from 60 to 110°C comprising at least one copolymer of ethylene and a vinyl ester or an alkyl acrylate; wherein said first and second polymers have a combined weight percentage of at least 50 weight percent, said weight percentage being based upon the total weight of said first, second and third polymers;

cooling said primary tube;

reheating said cooled tube to a draw point temperature of from 65 to 88°C;

biaxially stretching said tube to a circumference of at least $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the circumference of said primary tube, and cooling said biaxially stretched tube to form a biaxially stretched, heat shrinkable film;

wherein said resultant film has a maximum ram puncture force of at least 65 Newtons, a total energy absorption of at least 0.50 Joule, and a shrinkage value at 90°C of at least 45% in at least one of the machine and transverse directions.

117. (New) A process, as defined in Claim 116, wherein said resultant film has a maximum ram puncture force of at least 90 Newtons, a total energy absorption of at least 0.90 Joule, and a shrinkage value at 90°C of at least 50% in both of the machine and transverse directions.

118. (New) A process, as defined in Claim 116, wherein a multilayer primary tube is made by coextrusion or coating lamination and said resultant biaxially stretched film comprises:

a heat sealing surface layer comprising a polymer selected from the group consisting of:

(a) at least 50% by weight of a copolymer of propene and at least one α -olefin selected from the group consisting of ethylene, butene-1, methylpentene-1, hexene-1, octene-1 and

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mixtures thereof having a propene content of at least 60 wt. %, and

(b) at least 50% by weight of a copolymer of ethylene and at least one α -olefin selected from the group consisting of propylene, butene-1, methylpentene-1, hexene-1, octene-1, and mixtures thereof having a melting point of at least 105°C and a density of at least 0.900 g/cm³;

an intermediate layer;

a core layer comprising at least 80% by weight (based on said third layer's weight) of at least one copolymer of: EVOH; or vinylidene chloride with from 2 to 20 weight percent (based on said copolymer's weight) of vinyl chloride or methyl acrylate; and

an outer protective surface layer;

wherein at least one of said intermediate and said outer protective layers comprise a polymer blend of at least three copolymers comprising:

25 to 85 weight percent of a first polymer having a melting point of from 55 to 95°C comprising at least one copolymer of ethylene and octene-1;

5 to 35 weight percent of a second polymer having a melting point of from 115 to 128°C comprising at least one copolymer of ethylene and at least one α -olefin; and

10 to 50 weight percent of a third polymer having a melting point of from 60 to 110°C comprising at least one copolymer of ethylene and a vinyl ester or an alkyl acrylate; wherein said first and second polymers have a combined weight percentage of at least 50 weight percent, said weight percentage being based upon the total weight of said first, second and third polymers, and said core layer is disposed between said intermediate and said outer protective layers, and said film has a maximum ram puncture force of at least 100 Newtons, and a hot water seal strength of at least 200 seconds at 95°C.

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